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unit and the multi-beam light source unit. The multi-beam semiconductor laser is fixed to the laser holder with an inclination at or near a predetermined rotational angle for adjusting a beam interval between the plurality of laser beams.--.

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application.

Claims 27-57 are now pending in this application with Claims 27, 37 and 45 being independent. By this Amendment, Applicants have canceled Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-11, 13-15, 17-19, 21-23 and 25, and added new Claims 27-57, and a new abstract of the invention.

The Office Action includes a request that Figures 1, 2A and 2B be designated as --PRIOR ART--. Accompanying this Amendment is a Request for Approval to Amend the Drawings, in which Applicants have amended those figures as requested. The Office Action also includes a request that Applicants amend the abstract of the invention to remove the term "includes". Applicants have provided a new abstract of the invention, in which "includes" is not used.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 10, 11, 13, 15, 18, 19, 21, 23 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over Japanese Laid-

Open Application No. 10-244707 (Asami '707). Claims 2, 4, 7, 9, 14, 17, 22 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over the Asami '707 document in view of U.S. Patent Nos. 5,408,493 (Aoki) or 5,999,345 (Nakajima, et al.), or Japanese Laid-Open Application No. 9-243944 (Asami '944). Applicants traverse these rejections and submit that the rejections are moot in view of the cancellation of the rejected claims. In addition, Applicants submit that the new independent claims are allowable over the above-discussed documents for at least the reasons discussed below.

As recited in independent Claim 27, Applicants' invention is directed to a multi-beam scanning apparatus including a light source unit, scanning means and a housing. The light source unit includes a laser light source and a driving circuit board for driving the laser light source. The laser light source includes a laser chip having a plurality of emission points for emitting laser beams. The driving circuit board is connected to a terminal of the laser light source and includes a longitudinal edge. The laser light source is fixed such that a straight line inclined with respect to the longitudinal edge of the driving circuit board passes the plurality of emission points.

Claim 37 is directed to a multi-beam light source unit which is configured similarly to the light source unit of independent Claim 27.

As recited in independent Claim 45, Applicants' invention is also directed to a multi-beam scanning apparatus including a light source unit, scanning means, a housing and at least three fixing members fixing the light source unit to the housing. The light source unit includes a laser light source having a plurality of emission points for emitting laser beams. The plurality of emission points of the laser light source are located within a planar region defined by straight lines connecting respectively two of the three fixing members. The fixing member restrict movement of the light source unit toward the direction leaving the housing.

The Asami '707 document is directed to an optical deflection scan apparatus that adjusts an angle of a beam array by setting a small substrate to a driving substrate and then rotating the small substrate for adjustment. While that patent does describe an inclined laser array, the lead pins 1a of the semiconductor laser 1 are connected to a small substrate 15, not directly to a driving substrate 14. Accordingly, the apparatus described in the Asami '707 document requires a small substrate for its operation, and thus does not disclose inclining the array of emission points with respect to a driving circuit board which is connected to the energization terminal of a laser light source.

Applicants also acknowledge that the Asami '707 patent describes a projecting pin 10a and two screws 17 for

fixing a laser holder 12 to an optical box 10. However, the projecting pin 10a has no function other than preventing rotation misadjustment. Thus, the projecting pin 10a does not restrict movement of the laser holder toward a direction leaving the optical box.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the Asami '707 document fails to disclose or suggest at least the features of a laser light source and a driving circuit board for driving the laser light source, the driving circuit board being connected to a terminal of the laser light source and having a longitudinal edge, wherein the laser light source is fixed such that a straight line inclined with respect to the longitudinal edge of the driving circuit board passes a plurality of emission points of the laser light source, as recited in independent Claims 27 and 37. In addition, Applicants submit that the Asami '707 document fails to disclose or suggest at least the features of a light source unit having a laser light source including a plurality of emission points for emitting laser beams, a housing supporting the light source unit, and at least three fixing members fixing the light source unit to the housing, wherein the three fixing members restrict movement of the light source unit toward the direction leaving the housing, as recited in independent Claim 45.

The Aoki patent is directed to an apparatus for adjusting the optical axis of a semiconductor laser apparatus. That patent is merely cited in the Office Action as describing an angle adjusting holder for obtaining a desired point image position on a surface to be scanned. The Nakajima, et al. patent is directed to a multi-beam light source unit, which is merely cited in the Office Action as describing the selection of 1- or 2-dimensional array lasers in optical scanning devices. The Asami '944 document is directed to an optical scanning device which is cited in the Office Action as describing fixing a laser holder to an optical box using an adhesive or adjustable structure. Applicants submit that these documents fail to remedy the deficiencies noted above with respect to the Asami '707 document.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the independent claims are allowable over the documents of record, and request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103.

The remaining claims in the present application are dependent claims which depend from the independent claims discussed above, and thus are patentable over the documents of record for reasons noted above with respect to those independent claims. In addition, each recites features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the


applied documents. Applicants request favorable and independent consideration thereof.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. At the very least, the Amendment reduces the number of issues. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicants earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and request a Notice thereof.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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